

Profile of Female Offenders in Virginia

Presented to the Commission on Youth

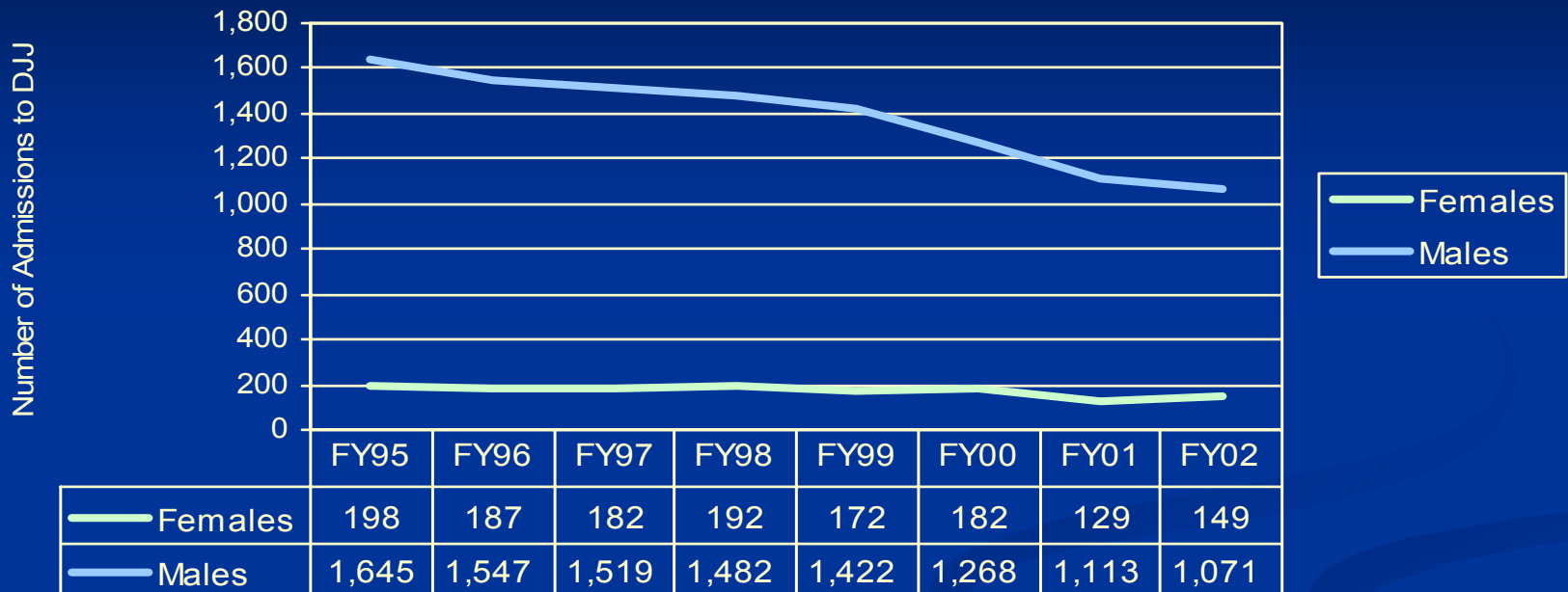
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Justice

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Female Offender Profile

Admissions to DJJ FY1995 - FY2002



- Female admissions increased by 16% from FY01 to FY02
 - ❖ Overall, admissions decreased from FY95 to FY02 by 25%
- Male admissions decreased by 4% from FY01 to FY02
 - ❖ Overall, admissions decreased from FY95 to FY02 by 35%
- Females accounted for 10-13% of all admissions each year

Demographics

➤ Female

- ❖ 49% black
- ❖ 48% white
- ❖ 83% ages 15-17
- ❖ 57% from Eastern Region

➤ Male

- ❖ 62% black
- ❖ 34% white
- ❖ 82% ages 15-17
- ❖ 55% from Eastern Region

Security Classification

- ❖ 90% initial security classification of II or III
- ❖ 5% initial security classification of IV (highest level)

- ❖ 80% initial security classification of II or III
- ❖ 5% initial security classification of IV (highest level)

Offenses

➤ Females

- ❖ 64% had a felony as most serious offense
- ❖ Assault was most frequent person felony
- ❖ 18% had never committed a felony
- ❖ Since FY98, females committed for misdemeanor offenses decreased 33%
- ❖ 84% of admissions had a high or medium intake risk classification

➤ Males

- ❖ 75% had felony as most serious offense
- ❖ Robbery was most frequent person felony
- ❖ 10% had never committed a felony
- ❖ Since FY98, males committed for misdemeanor offenses decreased 16%
- ❖ 78% of admissions had a high or medium intake risk classification

Length of Stay (LOS)

➤ Females

- ❖ LOS categories 6-12 and 12-18 months account for 61% of admissions
- ❖ FY02 releases
 - ✦ Average actual LOS was 9 months
 - ✦ Sex offenders had longer actual LOS: average of 9.5 months (only one female released in FY02 had a sex offender treatment need)

➤ Males

- ❖ LOS categories 6-12 and 12-18 months account for 49% of admissions
- ❖ FY02 releases
 - ✦ Average actual LOS was 13 months
 - ✦ Sex offenders had longer actual LOS: average of 26.2 months (108 males released in FY02 had a sex offender treatment need)

Within assigned LOS categories, not including wards requiring sex offender treatment, males and females had similar actual lengths of stay.

Psychiatric History

- Approximately 26% of females had a prior suicide attempt requiring medical attention (vs. 4% of males)
- Almost 65% of females have been placed on psychotropic medication prior to admission (vs. 51% of males)
- Approximately 30% of males and females had a prior psychiatric hospitalization
 - ❖ More than half of these females have had more than one hospitalization

Psychiatric History

- DSM-IV criteria—females
 - ❖ Behavioral disorders—85%
 - ❖ Substance abuse disorders—56%
 - ❖ Mood disorders—54%
 - ❖ Anxiety disorders—17%
 - ❖ 67% would qualify for at least one other disorder
- DSM-IV criteria—males
 - ❖ Behavioral disorders—91%
 - ❖ Substance abuse disorders—60%
 - ❖ Mood disorders—32%
 - ❖ Anxiety disorders—3%
 - ❖ 55% would qualify for at least one other disorder

Living Situation

- Current living situation: the juvenile's situation at time of commitment
 - ❖ Most common situation
 - ✦ Males—Mother only, 35% (vs. 20% for females)
 - ✦ Females—AWOL from home, 26% (vs. 1% for males)
 - ❖ Females were twice as likely to be living in a group home or psychiatric facility prior to admission
- Average age at time of first arrest was 13 for males and 12 for females

Parental History

- Female offenders were more likely than males to have parents who:
 - ❖ Physically abused them (23% female vs. 17% male)
 - ❖ Had outpatient mental health treatment (29% vs. 14%)
 - ❖ Abused substances (63% vs. 50%)
 - ❖ Had criminal histories (57% vs. 50%)
 - ❖ Abandoned or rejected them (78% vs. 56%)
- 38% of males and females had parents who had been incarcerated

Sexual History

➤ Females

- ❖ 33% were sexually abused
 - ✦ 10% by parents
- ❖ Average number of sexual partners—7
- ❖ 5% report having no sexual partners
- ❖ Average age at first intercourse—14

➤ Males

- ❖ 8% were sexually abused
 - ✦ 3% by parents
- ❖ Average number of sexual partners—7
- ❖ 11% report having no sexual partners
- ❖ Average age at first intercourse—13

Education

➤ Females

- ❖ 72% have moderate or severe school attendance problems
- ❖ 50% had completed 8th grade
- ❖ Tested at or below 5th grade:
 - ✦ Reading—11%
 - ✦ Math—28%
 - ✦ Writing—42%

➤ Males

- ❖ 75% have moderate or severe school attendance problems
- ❖ 51% had completed 8th grade
- ❖ Tested at or below 5th grade:
 - ✦ Reading—29%
 - ✦ Math—34%
 - ✦ Writing—66%

Treatment

Behavioral Services

- Currently in transition stage while reestablishing programs from Bon Air to Culpeper JCC
- Mental Health Services:
 - ❖ Individual, group and family therapy
 - ❖ Medication management
 - ❖ Crisis intervention
 - ❖ 24/7 On call services
 - ❖ Individual case consultation
- Sex Offender Treatment
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Program Development

Behavioral Services, cont'd.

- 90%—95% of females are provided mental health or substance abuse services through BSU
- 50%—60% of females are seen by the consulting psychiatrist for medication management
- 93% of females (59% males) left RDC with an identified mental health treatment need
- Female programming is designed to address topics such as:
 - ❖ Parental responsibility
 - ❖ Child rearing
 - ❖ Negative male influences
 - ❖ Female role models

Behavioral Services, cont'd.

- Dual diagnosis females (substance abuse and a mental health diagnosis) are placed in a 24 bed specialized unit that offers:
 - ❖ Daily therapy groups
 - ❖ Individual weekly therapy
 - ❖ Weekly AA groups
 - ❖ Family therapy, when family is available

Behavioral Services, cont'd.

- Females with serious mental health problems, who cannot function within the general population, are placed in a special 10 bed unit, where they participate in:
 - ❖ Incentive based programming
 - ❖ Daily therapy groups
 - ❖ Individual therapy, at least once a week
 - ❖ Individualized treatment plans, focusing on preparation for return to general population

Behavioral Services, cont'd.

- All females with a history of violence are required to complete a 9 month moral reasoning program, which focuses on:
 - ❖ Understanding the impact of their violence on the victim and victim's family
 - ❖ Dealing with their own attitudes and beliefs

Health Services

- Comprehensive physical and dental exam upon admission, including gynecological exam, pregnancy test and STD screenings
- Juveniles requiring treatment beyond the capability of the facility's health suite are referred to community based services
- Nearly 70 specialty medical and dental service providers are used, based on juvenile's presenting problem
- 58% of juveniles report having no family physician

Health Services, cont'd.

➤ On-site treatment

- ❖ Primary care medical services
- ❖ Psychiatric services
- ❖ Dental services
- ❖ Minor surgery
- ❖ Infirmary based nursing care
- ❖ Routine first aid
- ❖ Medication administration

➤ Off-site treatment

- ❖ Specialty medical services
- ❖ Oral surgery
- ❖ Specialized therapies
- ❖ Hospitalization

Health Services, cont'd.

- Females average 3 prescriptions per person
- Males average 2 prescriptions per person
- 20% of females are currently prescribed medications for asthma
- Historically, 2-5 females at RDC are pregnant
- Currently, 2 pregnant females are confined
- MCV's High Risk Pregnancy Clinic manages any pregnancies during confinement
 - ❖ Volunteers from MCV provide additional counseling, education and support to expectant mothers

Health Services, cont'd.

- Current rates of STDs in the population:
 - ❖ Gonorrhea—5%
 - ❖ Syphilis—rare
 - ❖ Chlamydia—30-40%
 - ❖ Other—5%
- 40% of PAP smear results are abnormal, requiring further medical attention